

TOP SECRET

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SUMMARY

FAR EAST

1. Rhee adamant against normal relations with Japan (page 3).

SOUTHEAST ASIA

3. Vietnamese declaration on elections to be dissociated from Geneva agreement (page 4).

NEAR EAST - AFRICA

4. French official anticipates continued anti-American sentiment in Tunisia (page 5).

FAR EAST

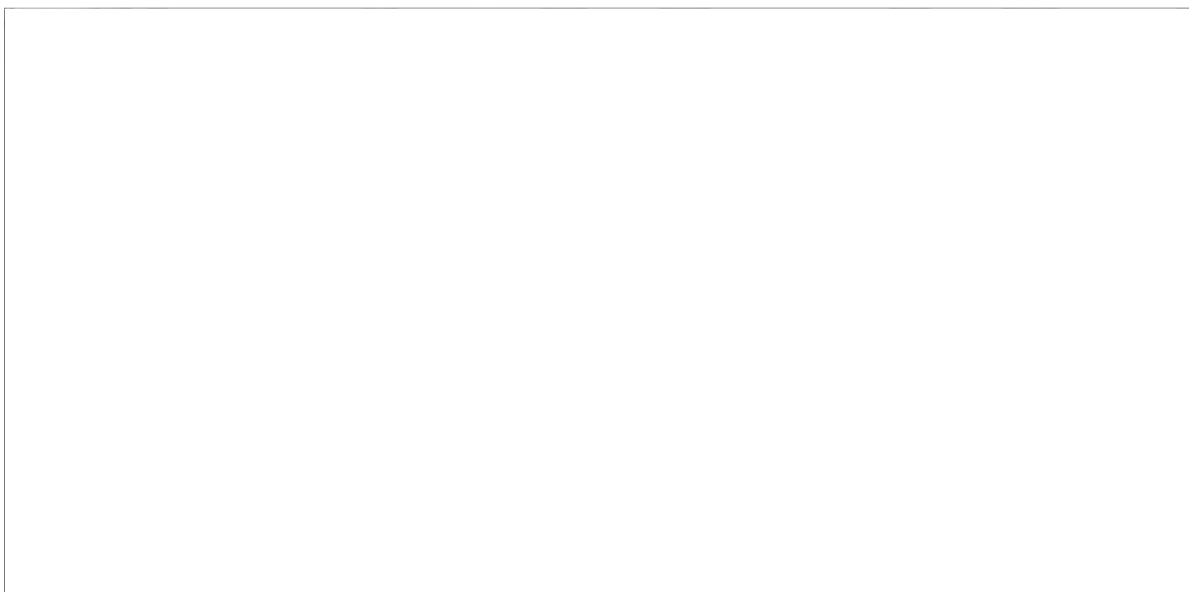
1. Rhee adamant against normal relations with Japan:



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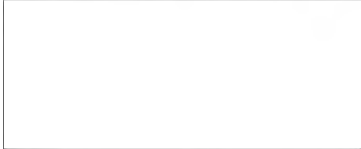
desire to reach an agreement with Japan on any subject. They believe that regardless of any concessions the Japanese may make, Rhee will find some new pretext for refusing to normalize relations, and that nothing less than a "miraculous revelation" will cause him to depart from his deep-seated prejudices. On the question of trade, Rhee said he was not interested in selling rice to Japan and "did not wish to be told to do so."

Comment: Chronic antagonism between South Korea and Japan--stimulated by recent Japanese trade overtures to the Sino-Soviet bloc--has reached a point where South Korea has threatened to recall its diplomatic mission from Tokyo. While many South Korean leaders would support a rapprochement with Japan, Rhee's attitude virtually precludes a settlement while he is in power. His immediate objective is to undermine American confidence in Japan.



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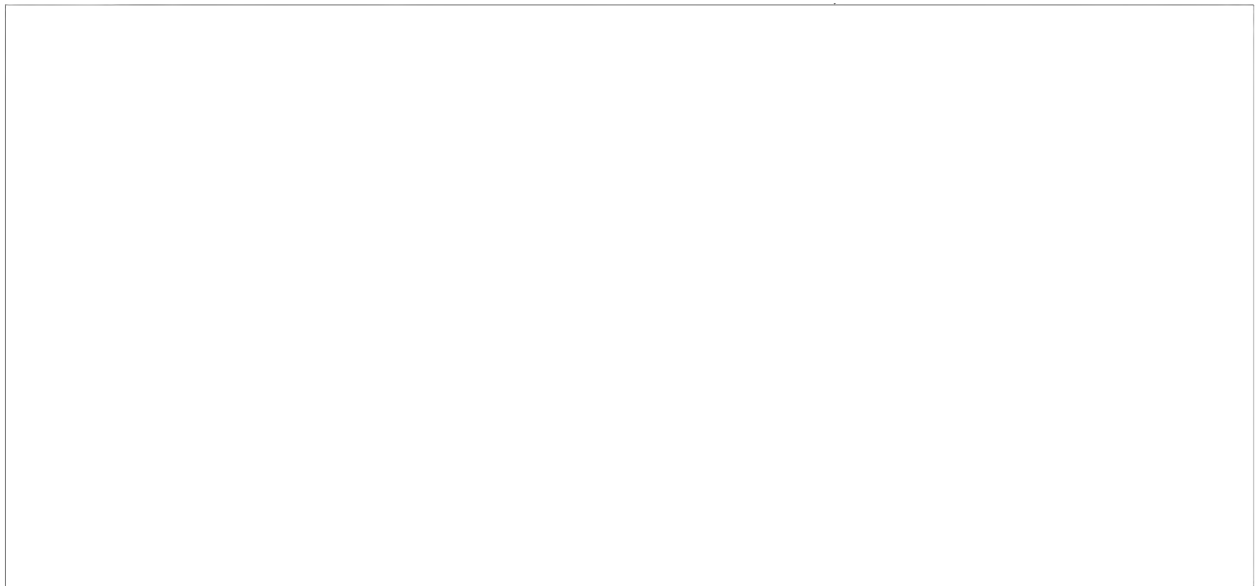
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SOUTHEAST ASIA

3. Vietnamese declaration on elections to be dissociated from Geneva agreement:



The Vietnamese government plans shortly to declare itself in favor of unification through democratic elections but to dissociate its action from the Geneva agree-

ment, according to the Vietnamese foreign minister. He pointed out that this position prevented the government from taking any initiative with respect to the 20 July consultations with the Viet Minh as recommended in the Geneva agreement.

Comment: The American embassy in Saigon believes the French will refuse to substitute for South Vietnam if the Diem government refuses to engage in talks with the Viet Minh. The embassy anticipates the Viet Minh would then bring a charge of violation of the Geneva terms before the International Control Commission or the Geneva powers. If no satisfaction were obtained by such a move, the Viet Minh would probably take the position that it was no longer bound by the Geneva terms.

One of the purposes of Ho Chi Minh's current trip to Peiping and Moscow may be to get advice on what action to take in the event of such developments.

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NEAR EAST - AFRICA**4. French official anticipates continued anti-American sentiment in Tunisia:**

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French minister-delegate Seydoux told the American consul in Tunis he believes the 28 June bombing of the US information Service in Tunis was committed by die-hard French elements. He also stated that anti-Americanism is based on dislike, or misunderstanding, of American policy toward North Africa, and has been increased by the recent public criticism of the United States by protectorates minister July and President Coty.

The French-language Tunisian press, according to the consul, has indulged in reckless criticism of America and has published a rumor that the bombing was designed to prevent distribution of certain "tendentious publications."

Comment: Anti-Americanism is on the rise throughout French North Africa. In Tunisia, it flared up sharply in late May and early June when General Gruenther's concern over the removal of NATO troops to Algeria was widely criticized. Even the formerly friendly resident general has charged that American consuls were abetting North African nationalism.